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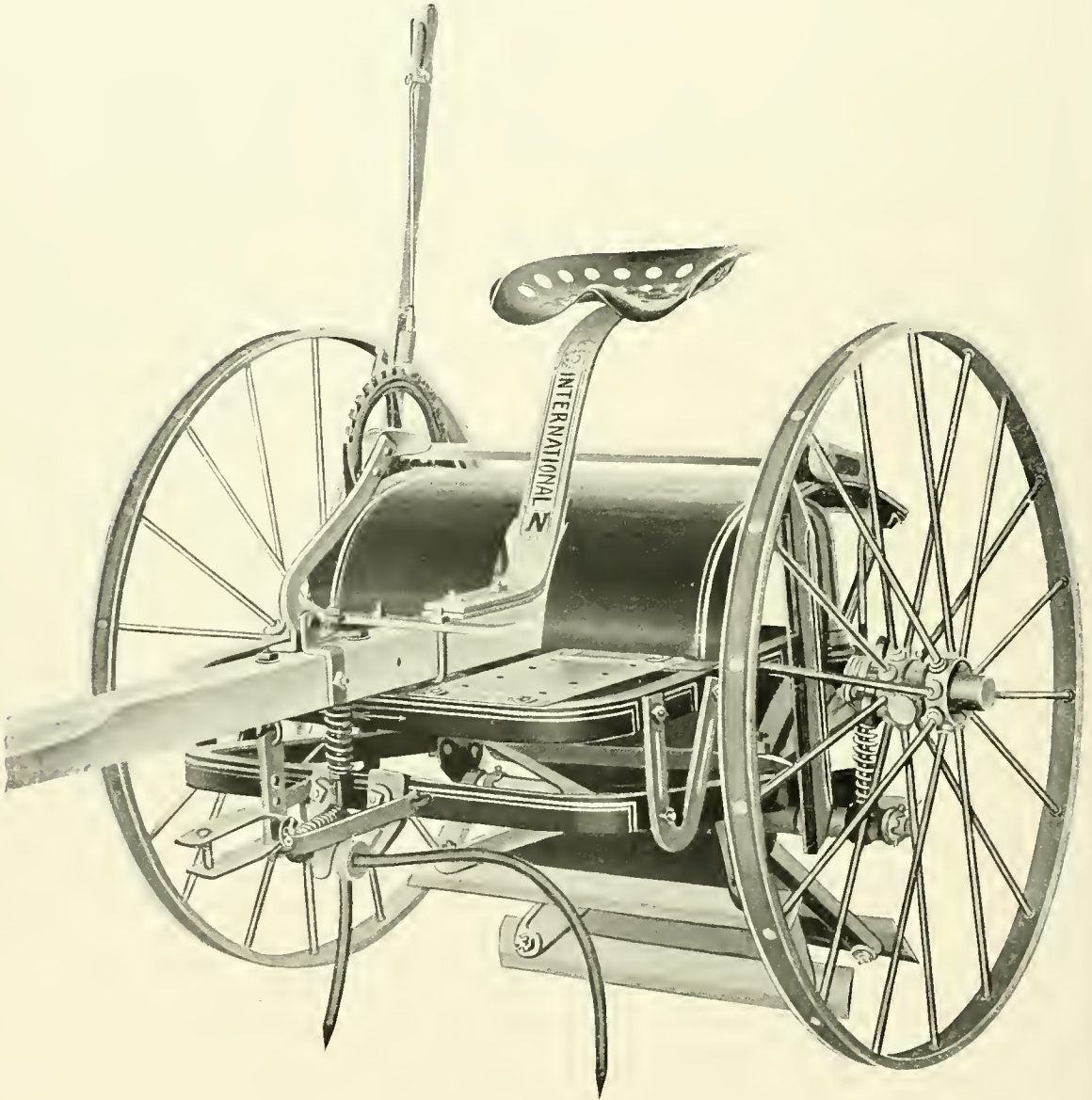
International Stalk Cutter



G.K.

INTERNATIONAL STALK CUTTER

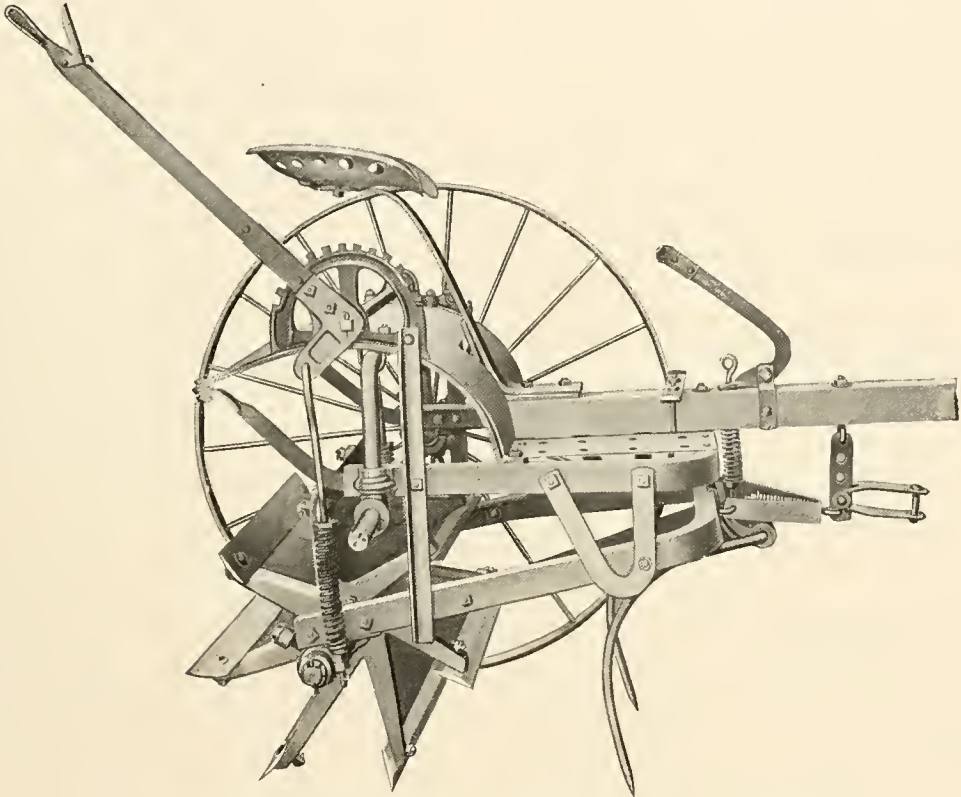
For Cutting Corn and Cotton Stalks



This stalk cutter has made a future for itself. It has earned the most favorable comments of cotton and corn growers by doing efficiently the great service of cutting stalks into short pieces that can be plowed under, and the large amount of vegetable matter they contain converted into humus. The International stalk cutter can be purchased with the certain knowledge that it soon pays for itself from the fertility it saves.

INTERNATIONAL STALK CUTTER

International Stalk Cutter Construction



This view with wheel removed shows the sturdy construction throughout

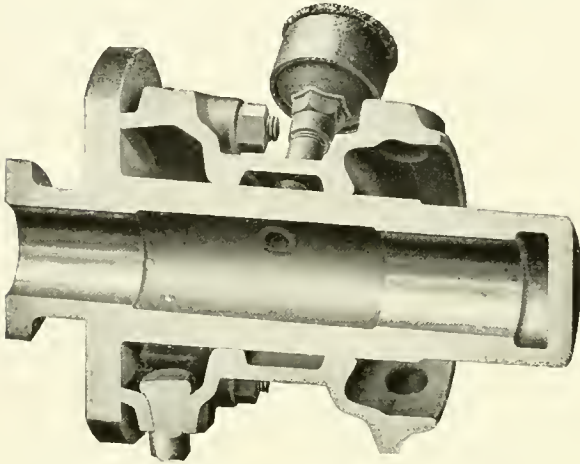
To secure the strength to withstand the heavy lug and uneven motion on rough ground, the frame of the International stalk cutter is made of angle steel. The further use of steel wherever practical, and of good malleable castings, produces a machine which contains the best material for the purpose. Looking this stalk cutter over will convince any man that he could not expect to find one more substantially built. He will know that this stalk cutter will do good work for the greatest number of seasons. The International stalk cutter is graceful in appearance and exceptionally attractive in color. It is a well finished machine.

Steel Wheels

A most noticeably good feature of this stalk cutter is the steel wheels. These are built by special machines which upset the spokes at the hub and on each side of the heavy channel steel rim, which protects the ends of the spokes from wear. The spokes are drawn tight all around and will never come loose or permit the wheel to get out of true. There are eighteen spokes to a wheel. They are staggered so there is no possibility of the wheel becoming dished. This makes a solid construction that is without equal for a stalk cutter wheel.

INTERNATIONAL STALK CUTTER

Wheel Bearings



Sectional view of wheel bearing showing grease cup. Note that end of bearing is closed, preventing dust from working in.

Wheel bearings are enclosed at the outer end and capped at the inner end, making them absolutely proof against dust or dirt entering. There is no danger of the bearings cutting out so long as proper attention is given to lubrication.

A wide grease groove is around the center of the bearing and a large grease cup opens into it. This feeds the grease to the ends of the bearings gradually, giving the best kind of lubrication. The wheel bearing is long, fits closely inside the hub, and is bolted into place. Therefore, it may be renewed, should it become worn. Grease cups are between the spokes of the wheels where stalks cannot strike them and turn them off.

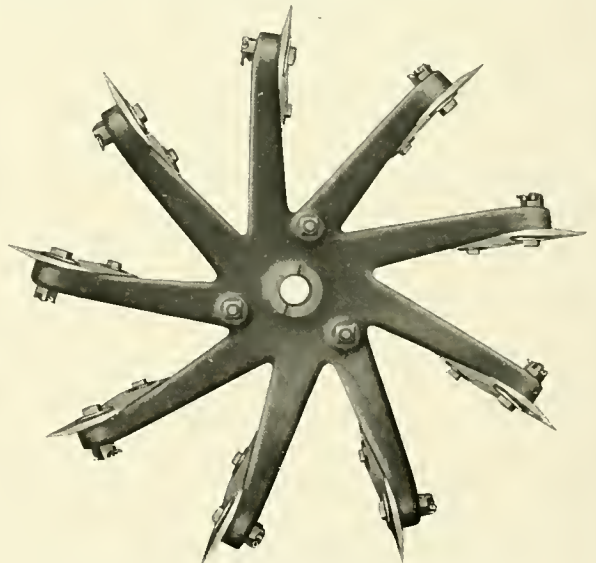
Knife Head

The knife head is the business end of the stalk cutter. The spider is made with 7 and 9 knife arms, giving a choice in the length of cut. It is made of two heavy castings, held together by three bolts. The arms extend from off side instead of straight from the center as do the spokes of a wagon wheel. This construction is to relieve the arms of stress by giving a more direct stroke and tends to prevent knife arm breakage. It also gives the knife a better stroke for cutting. The arms of the spider are angle shaped to give extra strength.

Knives Cannot Loosen While Working

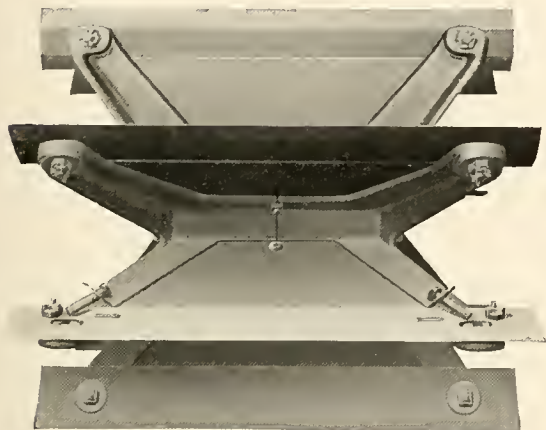
The ends of the spider arms are shaped to bring pressure against the blade on both sides of the bolt, holding it tightly. To prevent the knife bolts from becoming loosened, castle nuts and cotter pins are used. On both sides of the bolt hole are strong lugs over which the knife fits snugly. These lugs make it impossible for the knife to shear off a bolt.

With this construction, the knives cannot be loosened by contact with stalks or stones. They are always held firmly in place but can be easily removed for grinding. Bolts have square heads so they can be kept from turning when removing the knives.

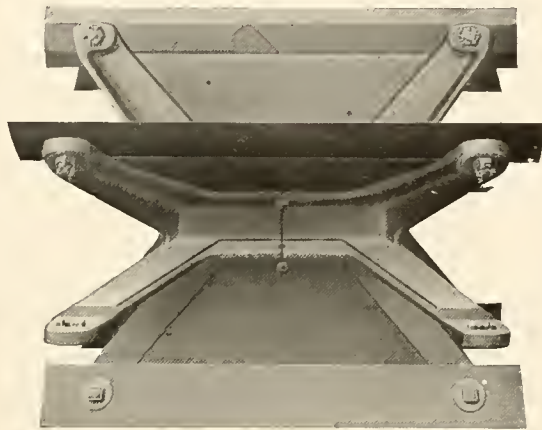


End view of a 9-arm spider. Observe that arms extend from off center.

INTERNATIONAL STALK CUTTER



The knife fits snugly over the lug. Castle nuts and cotter pins are used.



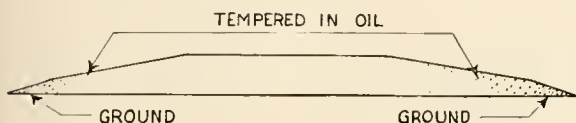
End of arm is shaped to hold blade solidly. The groove for spider shield is shown.

The Non-Clogging Feature

You will see from the illustrations above that the space between the spider arms and knife is entirely closed by a piece of flat steel, held in place at the center of the spider by a bolt and caught under the blade, fitting into the grooved face of the casting. This is the new feature on the International stalk cutter that will appeal to you at once as making the knife head absolutely non-clogging. Corn or cotton stalks cannot wrap over the blades or around spider arms, clogging the knife head and making it necessary to stop the team to clear it. This spider shield or web makes a tight joint with the blade so no stalks can be forced between. There are no loose edges to gather trash and carry it along. These shields are thick enough to prevent their wearing or rusting through quickly or being bent out of shape. They add greatly to the efficiency of the stalk cutter.

Double-Edged Knives

Being double-edged, the knives are reversible and can be used twice as long before grinding. This avoids delays when work in the field is pressing. Knives are tempered in oil along the cutting edges. The cross-sectional view shows the portion tempered.



Showing oil-tempered portion of blade. This process leaves the center strong to withstand shocks that would break the ordinary blade.

This method of tempering gives a cutting edge that will stay sharp a long time, yet the steel retains the strength through the middle of the blade.

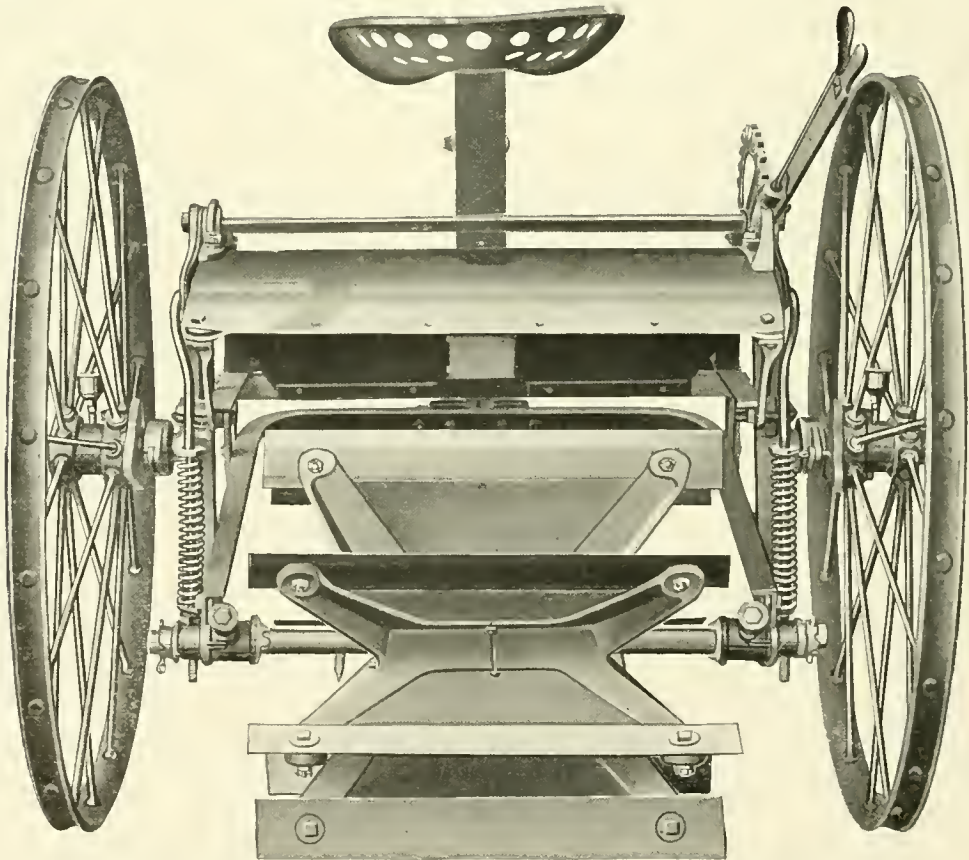
Blades are ground at the right angle to give a sharp, long-wearing edge which is strong enough to withstand contact with stones and sticks without becoming battered.

INTERNATIONAL STALK CUTTER

Control of the Knife Head

The knife head is keyed to a strong, live axle, turning in long, self-aligning bearings. This type of bearing prevents binding of the axle and the consequent extra wear and increase in draft. Large grease cups lubricate the bearings.

The angle steel knife head frame is pivoted near the front and oscillates up and down between angle steel guides. The knife head is raised and lowered by two heavy arms operated by a single lever on the right hand side of the driver. The lower ends of the lifting arms carry long coil springs, which are adjustable for tension. With this adjustment feature and the lifting lever, any pressure desired can be put upon the knife head. The spring tension permits of a chopping motion to the knife head, which does better work than a stalk cutter operating with only a rolling motion. Varying conditions of the ground require a wide range of adjustment to knife head pressure. These conditions can be met instantly with this stalk cutter. The spring tension makes the machine operate smoothly with less jar to cause uncomfortable riding and uneven draft.



Rear view to show lifting arms, knife head bearings and grease cup.
The non-clogging feature is evident.

INTERNATIONAL STALK CUTTER



The stalk hooks are raised conveniently by the foot lever

Stalk Hooks Adjusted Automatically

As the knife head is raised and lowered the stalk hooks raise and lower automatically. These hooks are under spring pressure sufficient to hold them to rake the stalks in line for the knife head. A foot lever, directly in front of the driver, enables him to raise the hooks to prevent clogging. This is a very convenient feature when stalks tend to wrap over the hooks and drag. The foot lever is handy to reach and does away with a hand lever for this purpose.

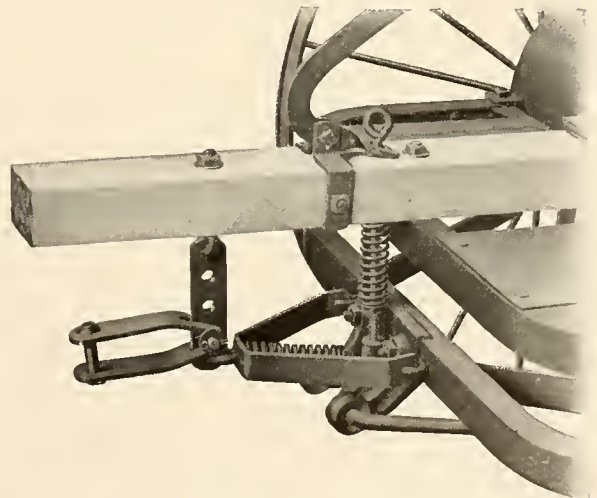
Protecting Shield

A broad shield, covering the entire knife head, protects the driver from dust and from danger of coming in contact with the steel blades. If stock is pastured in the field where the stalk cutter is left, it protects them also. The driver's feet are protected from striking the knife head by a perforated steel plate on each side of the tongue.

The seat is placed where the weight of the driver will keep the machine well balanced, relieving the team of extra neck weight.

Spring Hitch

The roughness of corn and cotton fields, which are usually ridged, causes very uneven draft of the stalk cutter. To protect the horses' necks from these jars, which would result in sore necks and shoulders, the clevis is fastened between the tongue and a spring hitch connected direct to the knife head frame. This spring absorbs shocks from the knife head, making the stalk cutter draw smoothly. This hitching device takes most of the strain of draft off the main frame and passes it directly through the knife head frame. This feature adds durability to the International stalk cutter and is easier on the horses.



Note spring draft rod, adjustable hitch and steel clevis

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